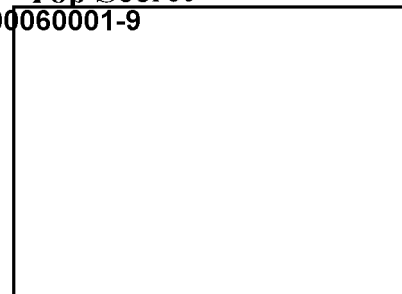




Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

Wednesday
7 February 1979

State Dept. review completed

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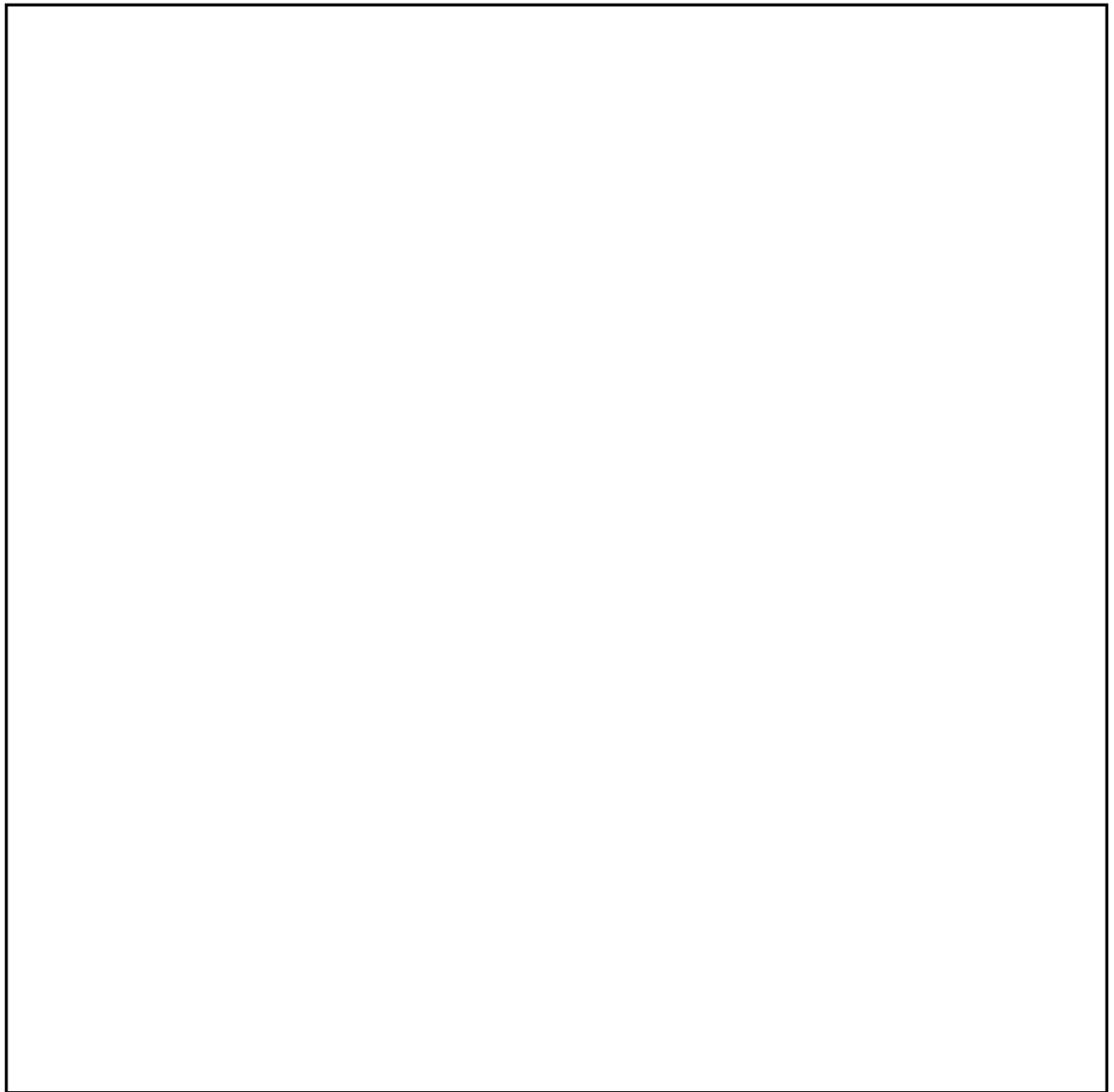
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OVERNIGHT REPORTS

(The items in the Overnight Reports section have not been coordinated within the intelligence community. They are prepared overnight by the Office of Current Operations with analyst comment where possible from the production offices of NFAC.)

Iran

According to a late press report, Mehdi Bazargan, Ayatollah Khomeini's designee to head a provisional government [redacted] said in an interview that he plans to outline the shape of his government in a speech on Friday. Barzargan said he probably would not announce a cabinet until next week. One Tehran newspaper last night ran a list of Bazargan's supposed designees. [redacted]

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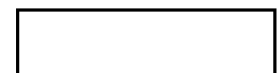
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USSR-Romania

The US Embassy in Moscow reported yesterday that Romanian Foreign Minister Andrei's visit to the USSR last week did not seem to resolve the differences that surfaced between the Romanians and Soviets after last November's meeting of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee. The Embassy noted a clear strain in the luncheon speeches of Andrei and Foreign Minister Gromyko but did find some evidence in the communique that the Romanians may have bowed slightly toward closer consultations, if not cooperation, within the Warsaw Pact framework. The most notable aspect of the communique, however, was its avoidance of troublesome subjects: China, the Middle East, Vietnam-Kampuchea, relations within CEMA, and prospects for increased bilateral military cooperation. [redacted]

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Belgium-Zaire

Brussels radio last night reported that Foreign Minister Simonet plans to send instructors, officers, and paratroopers to Zaire to continue training Zairian forces as provided for in bilateral military cooperation agreements. Western wire service reports indicate the Belgian troops are likely to be flown in early next week and stationed near Kinshasa. According to a Paris radio broadcast last night, French Foreign Minister Francois-Poncet has acknowledged being consulted by Simonet on the decision. A Zairian Government spokesman has asserted that Kinshasa is calm and has denied any relationship between Brussels' decision and "alleged disturbances in Kinshasa."

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Namibia

The US UN Mission reported yesterday that Secretary General Waldheim met Monday with ambassadors of the five Western states in an attempt to arrange a peaceful resolution of the Namibian situation

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Waldheim, noting the political hurdles still to be surmounted, felt it would be impossible to meet the target date of 26 February for formal deployment of the UN transitional assistance group in Namibia. The Western ambassadors pledged to cooperate with Waldheim's suggestion to establish a symbolic UN presence by extending and enlarging special representative Martti Ahtisaari's mandate. Waldheim also reported that Ahtisaari has received initial, negative responses from Angola on the idea of UN monitoring of SWAPO bases there.

COMMENT: Waldheim did not indicate where or when Ahtisaari received the preliminary Angolan reaction.

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Italy

Ambassador Gardner has passed along the private comments of Alberto Ronchey, the prominent political columnist for the *Corriere della Sera*, on the domestic political situation. Ronchey believes that national elections have become 80 to 90 percent certain and that unless the Communists suffer an unlikely drop of at least 5 percent they will have a good chance of attaining cabinet posts. Once in, Ronchey contends, they would prove hard to dislodge and would move Italian foreign policy slowly but surely toward neutralism. Ronchey adds, however, that if the Communists fail to enter the government this year they might not for the indefinite future, given the apparent electoral tide and changing intellectual fashions. Ambassador Gardner is not prepared at this time to endorse Ronchey's "gloomy" analysis but concludes that it nonetheless is a useful reminder of the "dangerous passage" Italy is now entering.

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Spain

The official 21-day campaign period for the general election on 1 March began today. Opinion polls published yesterday in Madrid newspapers gave the Socialists of Felipe Gonzalez a narrow lead over Prime Minister Suarez' Union of the Democratic Center, but approximately 40 percent of those polled said they were undecided or did not intend to vote. The election is Spain's first under the constitution approved in December.

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Bulgaria

The US Embassy in Sofia is scotching rumors and speculation in Western media concerning possible conflicts within the Bulgarian leadership. The reports have focused on absences of the Foreign Minister and two other Politburo participants from ceremonial occasions, such as the recent visits of Soviet President Brezhnev and Polish party chief Gierek. The Embassy reports the absences apparently resulted from physical rather than political ailments; one official reportedly was suffering from a bad cold acquired while serving as the official greeter at Brezhnev's first stop in Bulgaria. The Embassy has confirmed that the other two men recently were seriously injured in separate road accidents. The Foreign Minister visited his office briefly on Monday and is said to be substantially recovered.

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